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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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Petersburg Area Office  
16 Sing Lee Alley  
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#### **DISTRICTS 6 AND 7 COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Petersburg . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the 2012/2013 Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery in Districts 6 and 7:

##### Experimental Inseason Management

In January of 2012, the department met with representatives of the pot shrimp industry. Industry expressed a desire to experiment with active inseason management. As a result of those discussions, the department will be implementing a variation of Canada's Spawner Index management system in the Seymour Canal portion of District 11. Additionally, the department reviewed available data for Districts 6 and 7 for the potential of inseason management. Districts 6 and 7 were chosen due to the amount of detailed historical harvest information. A large portion of the harvest in both districts is from catcher-processors. As a result the department has a consistent time series of daily harvest information. In addition, the highest participation of the voluntary logbook program has come from participants fishing in District 7 and to a lesser extent in District 6. The department reviewed this information and developed an experimental plan for the 2012/2013 season to adjust the GHIL inseason based on the current year's harvest information compared to prior years. This plan was reviewed by many of the fishermen that participate in the District 6 and 7 fisheries at a recent meeting in Wrangell. This year's approach to inseason management for Districts 6 and 7 will include the following changes to current management practices:

##### District 6

The commercial fishery data will include daily harvest rates from catcher-processors, harvest rates of XL, or greater, shrimp from catcher processor log book data, and carapace length data derived from on the grounds sampling. The department will analyze the harvest information from the first 7 to 10 days of the fishery and compare it to prior seasons. Adjustments to the GHIL will be made according to the degree above or below the current year's harvest data is to past years. Inseason adjustments will not exceed 40% of the target GHIL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the inseason revised GHIL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historic levels for healthy stocks. In order to provide the meaningful adjustments above or below historical average harvests, the preseason target GHIL will be **32,000 pounds**.

## District 7

The department will incorporate the preliminary District 7 preseason survey results in conjunction with commercial fishery data. The commercial fishery data will include daily harvest rates from Catcher Processors, harvest rates of XL, or greater, shrimp from catcher processor log book data, and carapace length data derived from on the grounds sampling. The department will analyze the harvest information from the first 7 to 10 days of the fishery and compare it to prior seasons. Adjustments to the GHL will be made depending on the degree above or below the current year's harvest data is to past years. Inseason adjustments will not exceed 40% of the target GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the inseason revised GHL is reached if fishery data indicates that fishery performance has fallen below historic levels of healthy stocks. In order to provide the meaningful adjustments above or below historical average harvests, the preseason target GHL will be **63,700 pounds**.

## Catcher-Processor Logbook Program

**Logbooks will be mandatory for catcher-processors fishing in Districts 6 and 7** (39.130 (c)(10)). The logbook procedure and the information recorded will be the same as the voluntary program. The information from the logbooks will be used inseason as one of the components for inseason management and will be used postseason for evaluating the fishery. Those catcher-processors operating in Districts 6 and 7 will need to provide specific shrimp size category information and will need to record catch size distribution data on daily fish tickets as specified in an information packet available at ADF&G area offices. **Fishermen will not be required to report their daily size breakdowns during the weekly reporting periods but are requested to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.**

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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